

# **Task Force on Increasing Efficiency and Equity in K-12 Education**

## **Minutes**

**April 8, 2003**

Members Present: James Doughty (Chair), David Silvernail (Vice Chair), Robert Cobb, Bonnie Titcomb Lewis, Joyce McPhetres, James Rier, Jack Rosser

Others Present: Suzan Cameron, Paula Gravelle, James Sloan

- The March 19 minutes were approved. They will be placed on the TF website link.
- The TF members received copies of materials they requested at the March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting (items a-d). Members reviewed and discussed the materials for purposes of developing working assumptions and identifying focus areas and topics for initial analysis.
- The TF identified the following list of assumptions to guide its initial work:
  1. There are too many school districts in the state of Maine.
  2. Not all students throughout the state are getting the same quality of education.
  3. Larger organizational structures are not inherently good nor bad.
  4. Regionalization of services may assist in providing more efficient and equitable education opportunities.
  5. Significant statewide enrollment decline projections will require new approaches to the delivery of equitable education opportunities.
  6. Some education systems in Maine are more efficient than others in delivering quality, equitable education programs and services.
  7. Increasing efficiencies and cost savings will require both state and local communities to explore and adopt alternative methods of delivering services.

8. Cost savings should be shared by the state and local communities, whenever appropriate.
- Based on an analysis of the information, the TF decided to focus on the following topics and areas during the initial phase of their work:
    1. Administrative costs
    2. Regionalization of services
    3. Consolidation of districts and services
    4. Program cost areas of transportation, special education, and vocational education; and the program costs circuit breaker program.
    5. School construction
    6. Maine Department of Education organization and services
    7. Federal funding programs

Other areas will be analyzed as they become identified.

- The TF decided to use several strategies, where appropriate, to explore each topic area. These include:
  - a. analysis of existing information and data
  - b. discussions with appropriate stakeholder groups
  - c. review of national information
- The April 16 meeting will include interviews and discussions with several groups and/or individuals, and TF work time on topics and areas. The meeting will be for 10:00am-4:00pm, April 16, in the MSMA conference room.